

2006

Wisconsin Trapping Regulations



This booklet gives you a summary of Wisconsin's most important trapping laws and how they affect you; it is not a complete set of laws.



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
PUB-WM-002 2006

Dear Trapper,

With the 2006 Wisconsin Trapping Regulations, we begin with new opportunities in the world of furbearer management. Wisconsin's diversity of stakeholders, ever-increasing trapper education efforts, new tools and outdoor opportunities are unparalleled.

We have superb cooperation and teamwork between the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Wisconsin Trappers Association, universities, the public, trappers, neighboring states and federal agencies.

The Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program continues to grow and strengthen with thousands of new trappers taking up this time-honored tradition. After learning about the basic biology of furbearers, the role of furbearers in our ecosystems, trappers' role in responsible management, trapper ethics and responsibilities, these graduates take to the trapline with an excellent foundation.

Have a great time out there! Learn new skills, respect others' needs, and take a friend or family member with you. Through your responsible actions, non-trappers will have a greater appreciation of what makes an ethical trapper one of the finest naturalists in our region. Prior to, during and after the trapping season, act as if the future of trapping depends on your actions – because it does! Have a safe, productive and memorable season.

*John F. Olson
Furbearer Specialist*



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Cottage Grove, WI 53527

The content of this pamphlet was prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. Part of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Trappers Association.

Visit the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP) website at:

dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/trap/trapeduc

Cover photo story: This is Ashley Naas of Ashland, Wisconsin. At the age of 10, Ashley graduated from our Trapper Education Program. In November 2005, she successfully caught her first fisher, a large male in Bayfield County. Congratulations "Trapper Ashley!"

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in braille, audio cassette, large print or computer format upon request. To order, call (608) 266-8204.

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Support ETHICAL RESPONSIBLE TRAPPING

Report Violations

Call 1-800-TIP-WDNR

(1-800-847-9367)

or dial #367 on any US Cellular phone

Toll Free Statewide 24-Hour Confidential

(This is NOT an information number)



What's New in 2006

Non-Resident Trapping: Beginning this year, Wisconsin will allow trapping by non-residents from those states that allow Wisconsin residents to purchase non-resident licenses and trap in that state. Under existing reciprocal agreements, this will allow trappers from all states *except* those listed below to purchase a non-resident license and trap in Wisconsin. The new non-resident license will cost \$150.00 and will require the successful completion of the Wisconsin Trapper Education course. Non-resident trappers are subject to all seasons and regulations that pertain to the state of Wisconsin.

Note: Until rules are established, there is no raccoon trapping season for non-residents.

Residents of the following states may *not* purchase a trapping license required to trap in Wisconsin: **California, Florida, Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington D.C.**

Carcass Collection for 2006: DNR staff will be collecting all bobcat carcasses, all otter carcasses, and fisher carcasses from Fisher Management Zones E and F when pelts are registered. Carcasses and pelts should not be completely frozen at the time of registration so that tags can be properly attached. As in past years, you are required to skin the animal and separate the pelt from the carcass before registration at designated DNR registration stations. The only exceptions to this rule are those specimens going to a taxidermist. Collected carcasses are needed for important species management and research purposes.

Website Information

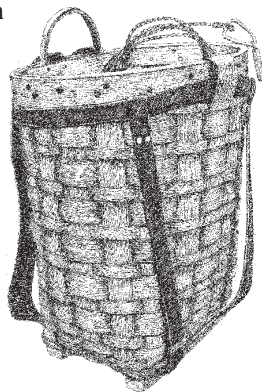
For more information on furbearer management and trapping issues check out the following websites:

- WDNR (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)
<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/trap/>
- WTA (Wisconsin Trappers Association)
<http://www.wistrap.org/>
- IAFWA (International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies)
<http://www.furbearermgmt.org/>

Pick up litter and keep your trapping grounds healthy!

Mississippi River Zone

- Following considerable input from citizens of Wisconsin, especially trappers and duck hunters, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources agreed to implement an earlier opening for trapping in the Mississippi River Zone.
 - This change, initiated in 1999, was the first time since the 1977-78 season that trapping has been permitted during the duck-hunting season in this zone. **This year the muskrat and mink seasons in the Mississippi River Zone open on November 13.** If the duck season closes prior to November 13, the trapping season will begin the day following the end of the duck hunting season.
 - The success of this new program rests with the trapping and hunting community. During years when seasons overlap, trappers can minimize contact with waterfowl hunters by setting and checking traps on weekdays, checking traps during mid-day, pulling trap lines prior to the weekend, asking hunters for permission to check traps in areas where hunters are set-up, and approaching areas with hunters only when ducks are not flying. Duck hunters can help by being aware of trapper presence and encouraging mid-day trap checks.
 - On private lands within the Mississippi River Zone the trapping seasons for raccoon, coyote and fox open with the regular state season dates as they always have (see page 19).
 - On lands managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and located within the Mississippi River Zone, the raccoon, coyote and fox seasons open with the muskrat and mink seasons. The beaver and otter season dates are not affected. Trapping on federal lands within the Mississippi River Zone involves obtaining a Refuge Trapping Permit issued by the USFWS, a restriction on number of traps allowed, trap placement restrictions, time of the trapping opener and trap check hours, to name a few. See page 21 for contact information regarding Refuge Trapping Permits.
 - Trappers, please take special care when trapping on uplands. We recommend you consider refraining from placing upland sets until after the close of the duck season.
 - Trappers and waterfowl hunters alike must remember there are others who use and enjoy the amazing resources of the Mississippi River. Please remain courteous and accommodate each other's needs.
- Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



License and Permit Information

- 1. Resident:** \$20, **Non-Resident** \$150 (see page 4 for details and eligible states). Please see pages 28-31 for trapper education requirements.
- 2. Age:** No age restrictions apply to trapping. All trappers must obtain a trapping license regardless of age.
- 3. Use:** You may *not*:
 - transfer your license, permit or tag, or allow its use by anyone else.
 - carry any trapping license, permit or tag issued to anyone else.
 - obtain a trapping license, permit or tag for someone else.
- 4. Landowner Provisions:** The occupant of any land and family members who reside on the land, or the landowner and family members who live with the landowner, *do not need a license to*:
 - trap coyotes, beaver, foxes, raccoon, woodchucks, rabbits and squirrels on the land year-round (see “Beaver Damage Control” on page 16 for more information).
 - live trap with cage traps for beaver, rabbits, raccoons and squirrels on the land at any time in cities, villages or other areas where the discharge of firearms is unlawful. Live trapped animals must be either humanely killed or released within 24 hours on private land with the landowner's permission.
- 5. Duplicates:** You can acquire a duplicate trapping license at any license outlet with your personal identification and, preferably, your DNR customer number. Duplicate trapper education certificates are also available through the DNR in Madison.
- 6. Purchasing Fur:** You must possess a Fur Dealers License or DNR permit to purchase raw fur (defined on page 11).
- 7. Animals Causing Damage:** During the closed season, a DNR permit may be required to remove nuisance animals. Contact the nearest DNR Service Center (see page 32).

Trap Checking Requirements

Dry Set - You must check dry sets at least once each day and remove any captured animals from the set.

Water set - You must check water sets at least once each day and remove any captured animals from the set.

Drowning Set - Sets capable of drowning must be checked within a 4-day period following the last tending of the set and any captured animals removed from the set. You must monitor water levels to ensure effective drowning sets.

Under Ice Set - There are no mandated trap checking periods for sets made under the ice.

Trapping Hours

Legal trapping hours are from 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Definitions

Cable Restraint - a wire noose used for restraining Furbearing Animals which does NOT allow the device or trapped animal to reach unfrozen water.

Capable of Drowning - means a set designed to allow the trapped animal to travel to water of sufficient depth to cause drowning. Slide wires or poles, locking devices, slip chains, weighted traps and traps staked in deep water are commonly used in drowning sets.

Dry Set - means a trap set or staked to be completely on dry land with no possibility of the trap or trapped animal to reach water that is not frozen.

Enclosed Trigger Trap - means any trap with a pull-activated trigger, inside an enclosure and recessed 1¹/₄ inches or more, from an opening that is no greater than 1³/₄ inches in diameter.

Furbearing Animal - for the purpose of this pamphlet, means bobcat, fisher, otter, coyote, raccoon, red and gray fox, mink, muskrat, beaver, skunk, weasel, and opossum.

Sight Exposed Bait - means any bait which can be seen from above.

Snare - a noose used for restraining Furbearing Animals in a water set.

Water Set - means a trap or snare which is set or staked in a manner to permit the trap, snare, or trapped animal to reach water that is not frozen.

Trap Size & Placement Restrictions

Consider all set placement to avoid contact with humans and domestic animals. When using body-gripping traps on dry land, we strongly encourage the use of cubbys and elevated sets. The ability to continue to use body-gripping traps in the future depends on responsible use now!

You may not:

- set, place or operate any waterset traps with a jaw spread smaller than 5¹/₂ inches for steel-jawed traps or less than 6³/₄ x 6³/₄ inches for body-gripping traps during the beaver and otter seasons, *except* when the muskrat or mink season is open in the zone you are trapping.
- set, place or operate any trap or device designed or used to capture or kill birds more than 3 feet above the ground.
- use sight exposed bait consisting of feathers, animal flesh, fur, hide or entrails within 25 feet of any trap, snare or cable restraint.

- operate trap sets which permit the trapped animal to reach water, *except* when the muskrat, mink, beaver or otter trapping season is open in the zone you are trapping.
- set a trap, cable restraint or snare other than a commercially manufactured enclosed trigger trap closer than 15 feet from any beaver dam (landowners see “Beaver Damage Control” on page 16).
- set, place or operate any **body-gripping trap** that is larger than 7 x 7 inches *unless one-half of the trap is located underwater at all times.*
- set, place or operate any **body-gripping trap** greater than 6 x 6 inches or any snare regardless of the size of the noose in the following locations:
 1. Within 3 feet of any federal, state or county road right-of-way culvert unless completely submerged in water.
 2. Within 3 feet of any woven or welded wire fence.
 3. Within 100 yards of any building devoted to human occupancy without the owner’s consent.
- set, place or operate any **steel-jawed trap** with teeth unless such traps are located completely underwater at all times.
- set, place or operate any **steel-jawed trap** with a spread width of more than 8 inches.
- set, place or operate any **snare** regardless of the noose size, *unless one-half of the snare noose is located underwater at all times.*
- set, place or operate any **snare** unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications:
 1. Cable length may not exceed 5 feet.
 2. It must be constructed of galvanized aircraft cable.
 3. The cable or wire diameter may not exceed 1/8 inch.
 4. It must have a mechanical lock and swivel.
 5. It must be non-spring activated.

Methods

All live Furbearing Animals taken during the open season for such species shall be killed immediately and made part of the daily bag or released unharmed. It is unlawful to keep such animals alive after their capture, unless you have first obtained a DNR permit, license or authorization to possess the animal alive.

Note: A Trapping License does not allow for the possession of live trapped wild animals.

Elevated traps are legal for Furbearing Animals as long as the sight exposed bait law is followed (please see page 11 for specific regulations pertaining to 7x7 inch body-gripping traps).

You may not:

- place any set or sprung trap, snare, cable restraint, bait, or scent for Furbearing Animals during the closed season.
- set any trap for which a Trapping License is required unless a metal tag is attached, stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the owner. Heavy-duty stamped tags are recommended.
- set any cable restraint or snare for which a Trapping License is required unless a metal tag is attached, stamped or engraved legibly with the name and address of the operator. Heavy-duty stamped tags are recommended.
- take or attempt to take beaver, fisher, mink, muskrat or otter by any means other than trapping or snaring. **Note:** Landowners, occupants, or their family members at least 12 years of age may take beaver by firearm on their land.
- possess any trap for the purpose of catching Furbearing Animals other than a steel-jawed trap, live trap, enclosed trigger trap, body-gripping trap, cable restraint or snare. Live traps shall be constructed so that not more than one animal can be taken or captured.
- disturb or molest any mink den, muskrat house, muskrat feeding house or beaver dam (see page 16 for landowner exception for beaver dams).
- place on the ice, any artificial house or den for the purpose of catching any Furbearing Animal.
- molest or take traps, cable restraints, snares or trapped animals that belong to someone else.

Cable Restraint Regulations

You may not:

- set, place or operate cable restraints for any species other than fox and coyote.
- set out or place a cable restraint, whether set or sprung, during the closed season. The open season for cable restraints is Jan. 1 – Feb. 15.
- stake a cable restraint in a manner that allows the animal or the restraint device to reach any part of a fence, rooted woody vegetation greater than 1/2 inch diameter, or any other immovable object or stake that could cause entanglement.
- set, place or operate any cable restraint with the bottom of the loop less than 6 inches or greater than 12 inches above the first surface beneath the bottom of the set cable restraint loop (Figure 2, page 10), where the surface is ground, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard surface.
- set, place or operate any cable restraint unless the noose cable and noose attachments conform to the following specifications:
 1. Cable length not to exceed 7 feet.
 2. Cable must be galvanized aircraft cable.

3. Cable must be made of 7 bundles comprised of 7 wires per bundle or 19 bundles comprised of 7 wires per bundle, with a diameter of 3/32 inch or larger.
4. Include a breakaway device or stop rated at 285 pounds or less.
5. Include a reverse-bend washer lock with a minimum outside diameter of 1 1/4 inches.
6. Include cable stops affixed to the cable to ensure that the portion of the cable, which makes up the noose loop, may not be longer than 38 inches when fully open, or less than 8 inches when fully closed. (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Maximum and minimum loop size is easily measured by circumference. The minimum loop stop is set at 8 inches and the maximum loop stop is set at 38 inches from the reverse-bend washer end of the cable. This results in a loop no smaller than 2 1/2 inches in diameter nor larger than 12 inches in diameter.

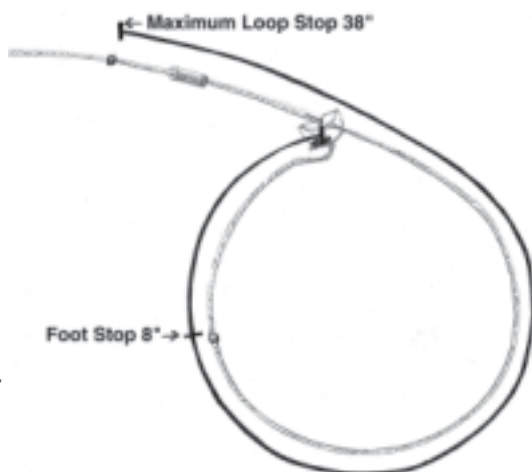
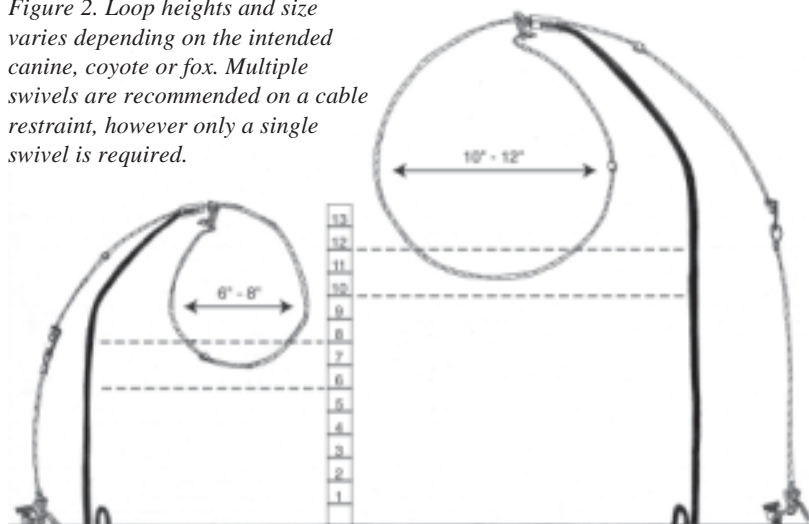


Figure 2. Loop heights and size varies depending on the intended canine, coyote or fox. Multiple swivels are recommended on a cable restraint, however only a single swivel is required.



Body-Gripping Trap Regulations

No person may set, place or operate any 7x7 inch body-gripping trap; as a:

Water set - unless one-half of the set trap is located underwater at all times;

Elevated set - unless the trap is placed at least 5 feet above the surface;

Baited and/or scented set in or on the ground - unless the trap trigger is within an enclosure that provides openings no greater than 50 square inches for a 7 inch recess; OR, an 8 inch height by 10 inch width opening with a 10 inch minimum recess from the enclosure openings;

Unbaited and/or unscented trail set - unless the trap is within an enclosure that provides openings no greater than 10 inches in height and 10 inches in width and is recessed a minimum of 15 inches from the enclosure openings; or

Bottom entry enclosure set - unless the entire opening of the enclosure is no more than 7 inches above the surface.

The measurement to the surface is the distance to the first surface beneath the trap or opening where the surface is ground, ice, crusted or packed snow or any other hard material.

For the purposes of this section, an enclosure means any single unit device that creates a barrier to the trap allowing entry only through designated openings.

Possession Restrictions

Definitions: (1) *Raw fur* means the undressed or untanned skins or pelts of any Furbearing Animal, including ones that have been stretched and dried. (2) *Green pelts* include a skin that has not been removed from the carcass or the pelt of any Furbearing Animal that has been removed, but has not been tanned or fleshed, stretched and dried.

You may not:

- possess the green pelts of any Furbearing Animal, except beaver, beginning on the 6th day after the season closes.
- possess a bobcat, fisher or otter pelt at any time, unless a valid carcass tag is attached and locked to the pelt through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin (see instructions on the carcass tag for further details).
- possess any mink, muskrat, fisher, or otter pelt that has been shot or speared.
- possess any raw fisher, mink, muskrat or otter pelt at any time

without a current trapping or fur dealer's license or other appropriate special license or permit issued by the DNR.

- ship fur unless the outside of the container is marked with the number and species being shipped, and the name, address and trapping license number of the shipper.
- retain any raccoon taken incidentally with a cable restraint from February 1 – February 15. Raccoons taken incidentally while trapping coyote or fox in January may be kept.

Special Regulations – Bobcat, Fisher and Otter

Permits and Tags

Permit applications for fisher and otter are available starting by early summer. For bobcat, purchase of the \$3.00 approval serves as the application submittal. You may pay your application fee (if required) at any license sales location, online at dnr.wi.gov or by phone at 1-877-WI-LICENSE (945-4236). You must complete and submit your fisher and otter application forms using one of the following options:

1. Complete/submit your application online at dnr.wi.gov no later than August 1st (you will get confirmation that DNR received your application); or
2. Complete the paper application and submit by mail to DNR Licensing, P.O. Box 7924, Madison, WI 53707. Paper applications must be postmarked no later than **August 1st** or received in person at any DNR Service Center by that same date.

You must possess your valid license, permit and tags while trapping. Fees for permits are as follows:

Application Fees

Species	Patron License Holders	Trapping License Holders
Bobcat	\$3.00	\$3.00
Fisher	Free*	\$3.00
Otter	Free*	\$3.00

* Patron License holders still need to submit an application.

You may not:

- Possess or have under control any bobcat, fisher or otter unless you immediately validate, attach and seal your pelt tag through the opening of the animal's mouth to the opening of its eye, immediately beneath the skin (see instructions on the carcass tag for further details). The pelt and registration tags shall remain attached to the pelt until removed by a fur dresser or taxidermist at time of preparation.
- Possess, loan or borrow a license or carcass tag belonging to another.

- Place your tag on a bobcat, fisher, or otter which has been caught, trapped, or killed by another person.

Registration

You may not:

- transfer, give, trade, sell or purchase any bobcat, fisher or otter pelt unless it bears a DNR registration tag attached by an authorized DNR representative.
- possess bobcat, fisher or otter pelts *longer than 5 days after the month of harvest* without registering the pelt(s) with an authorized DNR representative.

You must skin bobcat, fisher and otter and separate the pelt from the carcass before registering the pelts at designated DNR stations. The only exception is for specimens going to a taxidermist. In those situations it is not necessary to separate the pelt from the carcass for registration. However, you must retrieve the carcass from your taxidermist and deliver it to the DNR within 30 days of registration. In 2006, you must present ***all bobcat carcasses, all otter carcasses, and fisher carcasses from Management Zones E & F*** when your pelts are registered. Frozen carcasses should be partially thawed prior to registration so tags can be properly attached. There is no requirement that bobcat, fisher or otter be registered in the zone of harvest. The DNR retains the carcasses and heads for research purposes. All bobcat, fisher and otter *must* be registered by a Conservation Warden. Watch for newspaper notices prior to the season or contact your nearest DNR Service Center (listed on page 32) for times and locations.

Incidental Take Policy

In those circumstances where incidental catch of a protected species is possible, please contact your local Conservation Warden or call 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367) for instructions on how to release an animal, or if dead, how to transport it to the Department. A protected species is any species for which the season is closed, there is no open season, or a person has no authority to possess.

Animals Protected at All Times

The following wild animals are designated protected and have no open season: badger, Canada lynx, cougar, flying squirrel, moose, pine marten, gray wolf, white/albino deer, woodchuck, wolverine and any other species designated endangered or threatened.

Special Rule Clarifications

- **Trapping Along Roadsides:** Permission to trap road right-of-ways can be a complex issue. Most right-of-ways are owned by either the State or the local unit of government, however in some cases, the adjoining landowner still maintains ownership of the underlying land. Trappers must have permission from the owner of the land underlying any public road, street or highway before trapping these locations.
- **Trapping Navigable Waterways:** Trapping on private land in Wisconsin, including on the beds of navigable waters, may constitute a trespass (enforced by the county sheriff's department). *Trappers need to obtain permission before trapping on any private land, even if entry is by public waterways.*
- **Preseason Marking of Trap Sites:** Using stakes or other devices to mark a trap site anywhere prior to the season opener has no legal basis, is not recommended, and does not reserve the site for the person placing the stake or markers.
- **Unprotected Species:** Opossum, skunks and weasels are unprotected and may be trapped year-round by persons possessing a Trapping License. A Trapping License is not required for landowners or occupants trapping unprotected species causing damage or a nuisance.

Trap and Animal Theft: Stealing or molesting traps, cable restraints, snares, animals, or the contents of any lawfully placed trap, cable restraint, or snare is a criminal act and is punishable by fine (\$300-\$1,000), imprisonment (up to 90 days) or both, and a mandatory 5-year revocation of license.

Environmental Education for Kids!

EEK! is an electronic magazine designed for kids to learn about the great outdoors. It features information and activities for kids involving plants, animals, and the world around us. The website features everything from the "Critter Corner" where kids can learn about different types of animals, to "Get a Job" where they can find information about jobs in the natural resources field.

Visit the EEK! website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/ee/>.

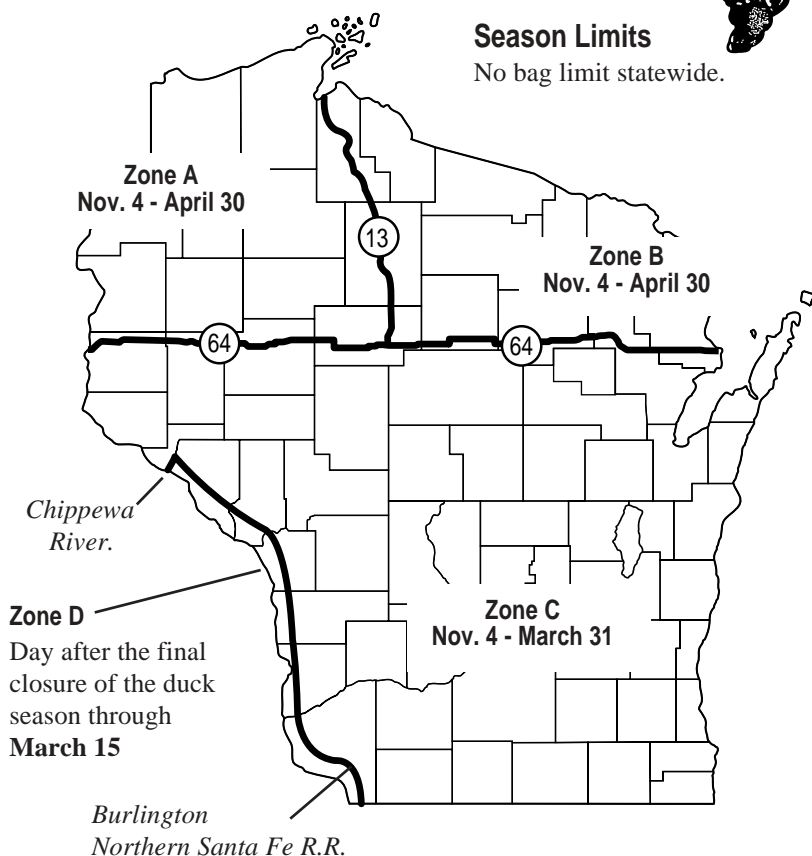






Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.



Beaver Damage Control

- Landowners, occupants, and family members living with them may hunt or trap beaver on their land at anytime without a license. If beaver are taken by firearm, the landowner, occupant, or family member harvesting the beaver must be at least 12 years old. Landowners may also trap on beaver dams. Beaver dams may be removed without a permit by the landowners, lessees, or occupants of land.
- See DNR publication no. WM-007, Beaver Damage Control, or contact the local DNR office for more information.

Fisher

Fisher Management Zones are made up of the following Deer Management Units:

Zone A - 1, 1M, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 22, 78, and 79

Zone B - 6, 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, 29A, and 30

Zone C - 29B, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 52

Zone D - 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49A, 49B, 50, 51A, and 51B

Zone E - 27, 53, 55, 56, 57, 57A, 57B, 57C, 58 and 59A

Zone F - Remainder of the state.

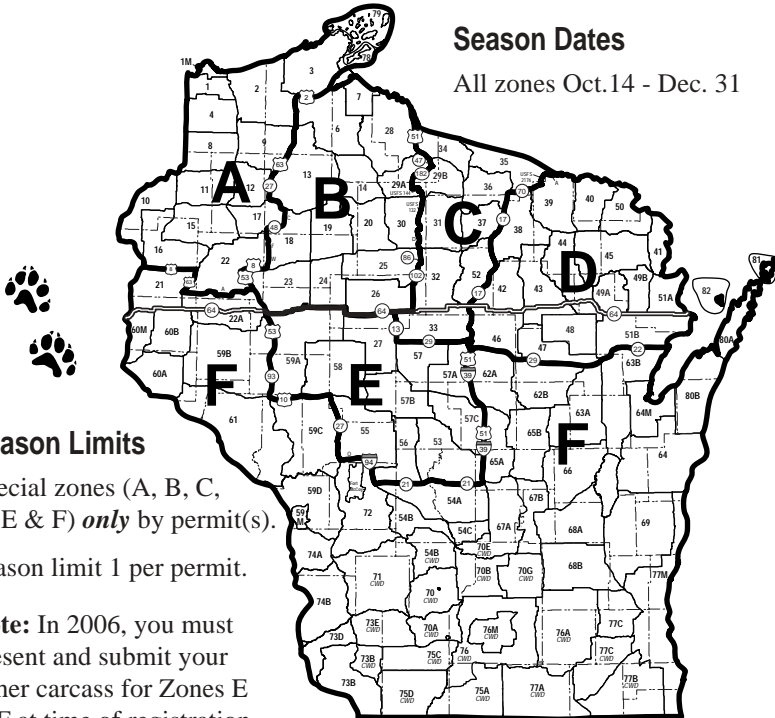
Application Deadline: August 1



Fisher Management Zones

Season Dates

All zones Oct. 14 - Dec. 31



Season Limits

Special zones (A, B, C, D, E & F) **only** by permit(s).

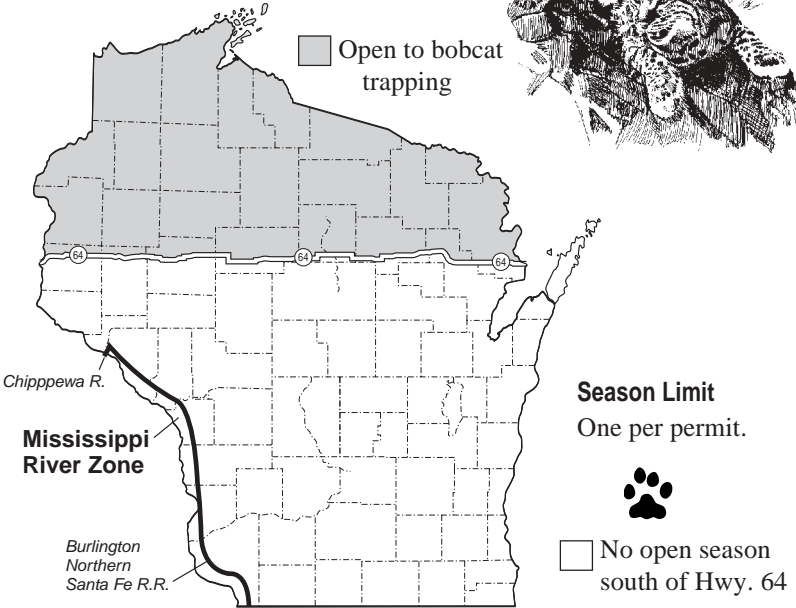
Season limit 1 per permit.

Note: In 2006, you must present and submit your fisher carcass for Zones E & F at time of registration.

Bobcat, Coyote, Raccoon, Red and Gray Fox

Bobcat

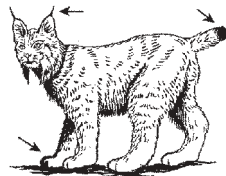
North of Highway 64 only by permit.



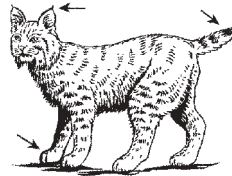
Bobcat Application Deadline: August 1

Note: In 2006, you must present and submit your bobcat carcass at the time of registration.

Canada lynx, a rare visitor to Wisconsin, is now listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please help us protect this unique animal through your careful observation. View the illustrations below and if you observe a Canada lynx contact your local DNR office immediately.



lynx



bobcat

Lynx are distinguished from bobcat primarily by the tip of their tail, which is completely black. Only the upper half of the tail tip is black on the bobcat.

Lynx also have larger ear tufts, are lighter in coloration, have large densely furred feet, and less distinct tracks than bobcat.

Coyote, Raccoon, Red and Gray Fox

No bag limit statewide.

Season Dates



North of Highway 64

Bobcat	Oct. 14 - Dec. 31
Raccoon	Oct. 14 - Jan. 31, 2007
Fox	Oct. 14 - Feb. 15, 2007
Coyote	Oct. 14- Feb. 15, 2007

South of Highway 64

Raccoon	Oct. 14 - Jan. 31, 2007
Fox	Oct. 28 - Feb. 15, 2007
Coyote	Oct. 28 - Feb. 15, 2007



Note: Until rules are established, there is no raccoon trapping season for non-residents.

Special Cable Restraint Season

Statewide

Fox	Jan. 1 - Feb. 15, 2007
Coyote	Jan. 1 - Feb. 15, 2007

Note: This is the only time during the coyote and fox season when cable restraints may be used.

Mississippi River Zone

Federal Lands: On federal lands within the Mississippi River Zone (see page 5), the coyote, raccoon, and fox seasons do not open until the muskrat and mink seasons open (see page 20).

Private Lands: On private lands within the Mississippi River Zone, the coyote, raccoon, and fox seasons open as listed "South of Highway 64" above.



Mink and Muskrat

Season Limits

No bag limit statewide.

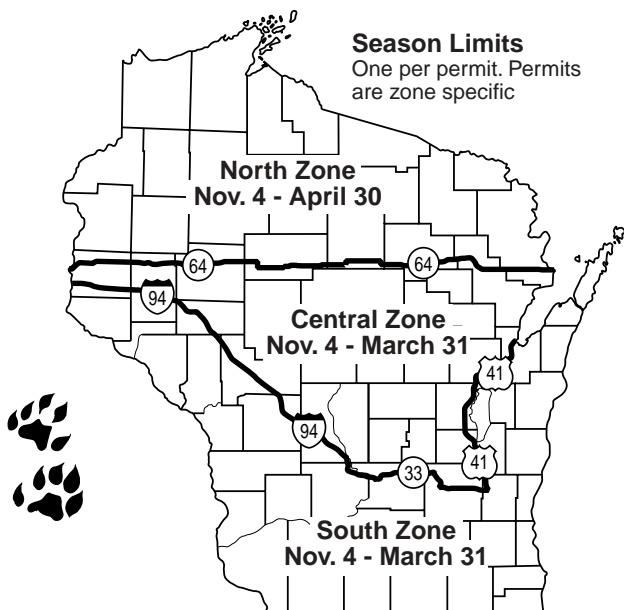
Zone	Dates
Northern	Oct. 14 - Feb. 28, 2007
Southern	Oct. 28 - Feb. 28, 2007
Winnebago	Oct. 28 - Mar. 15, 2007
Mississippi	* - Feb. 28, 2007

* Begins the day after duck season closes or the second Monday in November (Nov. 13), whichever occurs first.



Musk rats taken while beaver trapping (during beaver season) are legal fur. Note the rules listed under “Trap Size and Placement Restrictions” on pages 7-8.

Otter



Application Deadline: August 1

Note: In the 2006-07 season, you must present your otter carcass at the time of registration.

Horicon National Wildlife Refuge: Open to trapping on a permit system. Permit details are available through:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Refuge Manager
Horicon NWR
W4279 Headquarters Rd.
Mayville, WI 53050
(920) 387-2658

Upper Mississippi Federal Wildlife Refuge: Special trapping permits are required. For more information contact:

Upper Mississippi Federal Wildlife Refuge
Headquarters Office
51 E. 4th Street
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-4232

2005 Results for Fisher Limited Draw and Population Analyses

Strong interest in fisher harvest by state and tribal trappers results in more applicants than permits in most zones, and in 2005 this was the case in Fisher Management Zones B, E and F. Permit numbers were also up slightly this year.

There are six fisher management zones in Wisconsin. Zones A through D have the highest fisher populations and are located in the northern portion of the state. Zone E is in west central Wisconsin with a growing fisher population, while Zone F includes the remainder of the state and opened for harvest in 2004.

Zone	State Quota Allocation*	No. of Applicants	Permits Available	Tags per Applicant
Zone A	575	1,441	1,450	1.01
Zone B	405	2,152	1,330	.62
Zone C	510	1,254	1,830	1.45
Zone D	480	1,602	2,740	1.71
Zone E	45	692	170	.25
Zone F	45	913	170	.19

***State quotas reflect tribal declarations in zones A thru E.**

Note: Starting in 1997, a preference system has been in place assuring that all applicants receive greater equity in drawing permits in the future.

Population Information

The fisher population in the northern third of Wisconsin grew rapidly during the 1980s. Higher harvest rates during the 1990s slowed or stabilized population growth. During the 1990s, fall population estimates fluctuated around an average of 10,700 fishers, approximately 16% above the population goal of 9,200. Harvests during 2003 and 2004 were below the recommended quotas allowing the population to increase to over 13,000 by fall 2005. A harvest of 2,600 fishers was recommended for the 2005 season.

In 1997 the WDNR revised the population goal to 9,200 fishers for Zones A, B, C, and D (1 fisher per 2 square miles of habitat) due to new management and research information and public concern about the high number of fishers. Fisher harvest in 2003 (1,107, or 9% of the fall population), was less then the harvest objective of 1,660. Similarly, harvest in 2004 (1,508, 13% of the fall population) was less then the harvest objective of 2,055.

Fisher population models produced estimates for fall 2005 of approximately 4,200 fishers in Zone A, 3,500 in Zone B, 2,900 in Zone C, and 3,100 in Zone D.

The WDNR Furbearer Advisory Committee recommended harvest goals for 2005 of 800 fishers in Zone A, 600 in Zone B, 550 in Zone C, 550 in Zone D, 50 in Zone E, and 50 in Zone F for a total of 2,600.

Carcass and Skull Collections

Skulls or carcasses were obtained from 1,023 fishers (450 females, 569 males, 4 unknown) in 2004. Reproductive tracks from 20 yearling or adult females harvested in Zones E and F were also examined. Since 1985, ages have been obtained from 8,075 harvested fishers. Age distributions have been similar between sexes. On average, juveniles have comprised approximately 50% of the fishers harvested, yearlings 25%, and adults 25%.

2005 Results for Bobcat Limited Draw and Population Analyses

Conservative management efforts have allowed for a steady increase in the bobcat population to approximately 3,000 animals north of Highway 64, with an average annual harvest of around 300. Quotas are set in late spring with final permit numbers determined in late summer when success rates are calculated. A preference system allows the continuous applicant a bobcat tag every three to five years, depending on the number of applicants.

As with fisher and otter, bobcat must be tagged at the point of harvest and registered with a Conservation Warden. Hunters and trappers keep the pelt, with all bobcat carcasses collected annually at the time of registration.

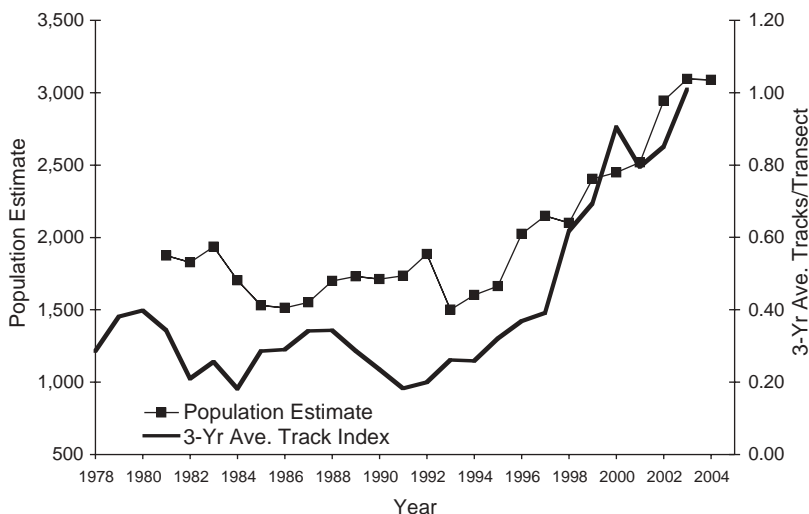
Bobcat Harvest Zone	
Permits Issued	1,540
Applicants	10,656
Tags per applicant	.15
Unsuccessful applicants	9,116

Age and reproductive data obtained from 2,955 bobcats harvested over the past twenty years (1983-2003), were used to evaluate Wisconsin’s bobcat population. Analysis suggests that fall population size has increased from about 1,500 to just over 3,000 since the early 1990s.

Bobcat population estimates and trends are determined by incorporating data on harvest size, age and sex composition, and reproductive rates into Wisconsin’s Bobcat Population Model.

With close to 3,000 carcasses examined since 1983, kits have averaged 25% of the harvest, yearlings 23%, and adults 52%. Examination of 963 female reproductive tracts show an average pregnancy rate of 40% for yearlings and 76% for adults. The average number of kittens per litter was 2.8. Population trends simulated by the model were compared to data from the Winter Furbearer Track Count survey to assist in verifying population model estimates.

Figure 1. *Prehunt bobcat population estimates and 3-year mean numbers of bobcat tracks observed per transect in winter track surveys, 1978-2004.*



2005 Results for Otter Limited Draw and Population Analyses

Current statewide otter populations are at, or slightly below, management goals of approximately 13,000 animals. Although a majority of the population is found in the north, otter numbers in central and southern Wisconsin appear to be increasing. Permits are issued based on estimated fall populations and expected trapper success rates, which have almost tripled in the last ten years.

Permit levels decreased slightly this year due mainly to this increased success rate and careful population management.

North Otter Zone	
Tags Issued	2,320
Applicants	4,313
Tags per applicant	.54
Central Otter Zone	
Tags Issued	1,180
Applicants	2,611
Tags per Applicant	.45
South Otter Zone	
Tags Issued	680
Applicants	1,769
Tags per applicant	.38

Population Information

Estimates of Wisconsin's otter population declined approximately 20% from about 15,600 animals in 1996 to 12,500 in the fall of 2003 with a slow increase to approximately 13,000 by the fall of 2005. The WDNR Furbearer Advisory Committee recommended a harvest goal of 1,300 otters for the 2005-06 trapping season which should allow for a continued slight increase in the population. In 2001, Wildlife Research developed a statewide aerial survey technique that should provide us with a means of obtaining an accurate, independent measure of otter numbers. Otter track detection rates on aerial surveys in 2005 were similar to or slightly higher than in 2004.

Population estimates calculated by the Otter Population Model suggest that the statewide otter population increased rather steadily from approximately 12,600 animals in 1982 to 15,800 in 1994, and recently near 13,000 in 2005. It appears that the population declines substantially when harvest rates exceeded 15% of the preseason population. Harvests have exceeded that level during 5 years between 1996 and 2002. As a result, the statewide otter populations in fall, 2002 and 2003 were at, or slightly below, the population goal of "a minimum of 13,000 otters in the State". The 2004-05 harvest of 1,322 (10% of the fall population) allowed for a slight growth of the population.

The WDNR Furbearer Advisory Committee recommended a harvest goal of 1,300 otters for the 2005-06 trapping season. This includes 780 otters in the North Zone, 325 in the Central Zone, and 195 in the South Zone. The population model suggests this level of harvest would result in a slight increase in the statewide population.

Carcass Collection

Trappers are required to periodically turn in their otter carcasses at the time of registration. Carcass collections were conducted in 1979-82, 1994-95, 1998-99, and 2001-02. This collection will again occur in the upcoming year, 2006-07.

Age data has been obtained from 2,111 male and 1,552 female otters. Age distributions were similar between sexes. Kits comprised approximately 45% of the harvest, yearlings about 22%, and adults approximately 33%. Pregnancy rates averaged 32% for yearlings and 75% for adults. Average litter sizes were 1.7 for yearlings and 2.2 for adults. The mean number of embryos per adult female was 2.3.

Results

Analysis of regional differences in reproductive rates and sex and age composition suggest that region specific data will be needed for development of zone specific population models. The lower yearling pregnancy rates in the Central and South Zones and lower percentage of juvenile males in the harvest in the South Zone, suggest there may be regional differences in habitat quality or prey availability. This could affect regional otter productivity and should be considered in future refinements of harvest management strategies.

Best Management Practices

Trappers and state wildlife agencies continue to develop “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) for trapping furbearers in the United States. Trapping Best Management Practices are documents that identify techniques and traps that address the welfare of trapped animals and allow for the efficient, selective, safe and practical capture of furbearers. BMPs are methods to improve trapping by developing recommendations using sound science. They are developed through actual field tests and careful data collection. The information will eventually be provided to state agencies and trappers for voluntary use in their trapper education and furbearer management programs.

Wisconsin has been involved in the BMP process since it began in 1997. Field trap tests have occurred throughout the state, and all field tests have been completed during the regular trapping season by licensed trappers who are active members of the Wisconsin Trappers Association. The Best Management Practices that result from these tests are intended to inform people about traps and trapping systems considered to be state-of-the-art in animal welfare and efficiency, and explain how some existing traps can be modified to enhance animal welfare. ***To date, Best Management Practices have been completed for coyotes, red foxes, and raccoons.***

A Wisconsin 3-year study was completed in 2003 resulting in the publication, *Cable Restraints in Wisconsin – A Guide to Responsible Use* (WM-443). Results of the state-sponsored Best Management Practices (BMPs) study resulted in the legal use of cable restraints in Wisconsin.

Public Impressions of Trapping

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), the sponsor of this huge BMP effort, selected Connecticut, Indiana, and Wisconsin to study public perceptions of educational and promotional materials in 2000 and 2001. This selection was the result of hard work and determination of our trappers, technicians and others behind the scenes in Wisconsin. This was good not only for our state, but it also positively reflects on the proactive efforts of the WTA, WDNR, Conservation Congress and the trapping community.

What Have We Learned?

Through the results of science-based, highly accurate surveys, we have learned that the following messages are important in communicating the role of trapping in Wisconsin.

- Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become threatened or endangered.
- Trapping is managed through scientifically-based regulations strictly enforced by Wisconsin Conservation Wardens.
- Wisconsin DNR, with input from stakeholders, continually reviews and develops rules, regulations, education programs, and capture methods that consider animal welfare.
- Regulated trapping provides many benefits including: reducing wildlife damage to crops and property; and reducing threats to human health and safety.

Why are BMPs needed?

- To ensure the continued responsible management of wildlife resources;
- To continue the process of improving traps and trapping methods that will maintain and improve animal welfare;
- To maintain public acceptance through a reduction in real and perceived problems associated with trapping;
- To sustain regulated trapping now and in the future, and to maintain the integrity of furbearer management programs throughout the United States.

Trapping will only prosper and continue if the trapping community, along with natural resource agencies, work together to improve harvest systems and promote the humane treatment of furbearers. Thanks for your support!

Trapper Education Course



Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program (WCTEP)



A Cooperative Trapper Education Program of the
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
and Wisconsin Trappers Association

Fur trapping in Wisconsin

Few people realize how important trapping of Furbearing Animals has been in Wisconsin. Starting in the early 1600s, Europeans such as Jean Nicolet began exploring Wisconsin, lured by the promise of waters teeming with beaver. For nearly 200 years Europeans traded with local Native American trappers at trade centers such as Green Bay and Prairie du Chien. As European settlement expanded, trapping continued to play an important role in the development of the state.

Since those early years, trapping in Wisconsin has changed a great deal. Furs are no longer brought down the Wisconsin River to trade for tools and flour. Today, trapping is a source of outdoor activity for several thousand people. It is carefully regulated to protect sensitive species, to encourage ethical practices, and to help control furbearer populations such as beaver, muskrat and raccoon, which can become overpopulated, diseased or cause property damage and flooding. The future of trapping in Wisconsin depends on proper management and ethical trapping — a task that requires the cooperation of all trappers, landowners, and resource managers.

Why Trapper Education?

We believe that trappers create a good image when they engage in responsible and ethical pursuit of our furbearing resource. Trapper Education teaches new or inexperienced trappers ethical trapping procedures, the most humane trapping methods, the history of trapping in Wisconsin and North America, and basic wildlife management principles. It is also important for trappers to learn and understand the importance of maintaining good relationships with landowners, other outdoor enthusiasts, and managers of our natural resources. The Wisconsin Trapper Education course provides a solid beginning to trapping education — an education you will use everyday on the trapline.

Who must attend?

All first-time trappers must complete the Wisconsin Trapper Education course prior to purchasing a trapping license. It is recommended that you be at least 12 years old. Class size may be limited, so early registration is recommended.

Persons exempt from this requirement must be a Wisconsin resident and must have purchased a trapping license before 1992, or be actively engaged in farming as defined in State Statute 102.04(3).

Note: *No late applications will be accepted.*

What you will learn

The course is designed to provide classroom time and outdoor practice time. A written exam will be given at the end of the last session, which you must pass in order to successfully complete the course.

It includes:

- Trapping history and highlights in wildlife conservation
- Role of trapping today
- Principles of wildlife management
- Wetland values
- Furbearer management, biology, and disease
- Trapping laws and ethics
- Trap preparation, adjustment, setting, and safety
- Humane trapping methods
- Pelt preparation, skinning, grading, and marketing
- Practice setting dry land sets and water sets

The instructors

Each of the certified Trapper Education Instructors in Wisconsin has completed a WTA-DNR Instructor course. All are experienced trappers and many are professional biologists. They live in communities throughout Wisconsin.

Correspondence course

A correspondence course is available for students who cannot attend the regular Trapper Education course classes. Completing the course objectives in this manner will take approximately five weeks. Contact Mike Widner, Correspondence Course Director, P.O. Box 483, Baraboo WI, 53913, (608) 356-9622, muskkrat_mike@yahoo.com for details.

Where are the classes held?

Classes will be held in communities statewide. Class locations are available by contacting instructors or viewing our website at dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/trap.

When do the classes meet?

Each instructor sets their own class schedule, but commonly the course requires 3-4 evening sessions and one weekend morning or afternoon.

What does it cost?

The fee for most courses is \$8.00 payable to the Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Program. This includes all your instruction materials. Some overnight workshops may have a higher fee if meals are provided.

Instructional materials provided

A student manual, set of Wisconsin trapping regulations, graduate card, arm patch, and your first year's Trapping License (Wisconsin residents only) for successful graduates are provided through the course.

How do you sign up?

Locate the district where you live on the map (page 31). The person on page 31 identified with that district is the district Trapper Education Coordinator. Contact him or her to get details on course dates, times, locations, and the name of the instructor nearest you. You can use the form below if you wish. If you cannot reach a district coordinator, contact the Statewide Coordinator, or DNR Trapper Education Coordinator, 101 South Webster St., Madison, WI 53707-7921.

For more information on a Trapper Education Course: Complete this form and mail it to the nearest district coordinator (page 31).

To the trapping coordinator: Please send me more information on trapper education classes being held near me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Phone (_____) _____ Zip _____

Age _____ Date Sent _____

Trapper Education District Coordinators

WCTEP Statewide Coordinator:

Nicke Shumaker

P.O. Box 28

Caroline, WI 54928

(715) 754-2121

DNR Trapper Education Coordinator: (608) 261-6452

WCTEP Correspondence Course Coordinator

Mike Widner

P.O. Box 483

Baraboo WI 53913

(608) 356-9622

District 1

Michael Gustafson

P.O. Box 961

Bayfield, WI 54814

(715) 779-3085

District 2

Dan Gee

2782 200th St.

Luck, WI 54853

(715) 472-8280

District 3

Dave Harmon

7445 Trailwood Dr.

Minoqua, WI 54548

(715) 358-3501

District 4

Richard Clark

7610 County B West

Coleman, WI 54112

District 5

Steve Sievwright

W4471 W. Co. Ln. Rd.

Durand, WI 54736

District 6

Lee Sillars

6003 Hwy U

Wausau, WI 54401

(715) 675-3073

District 7

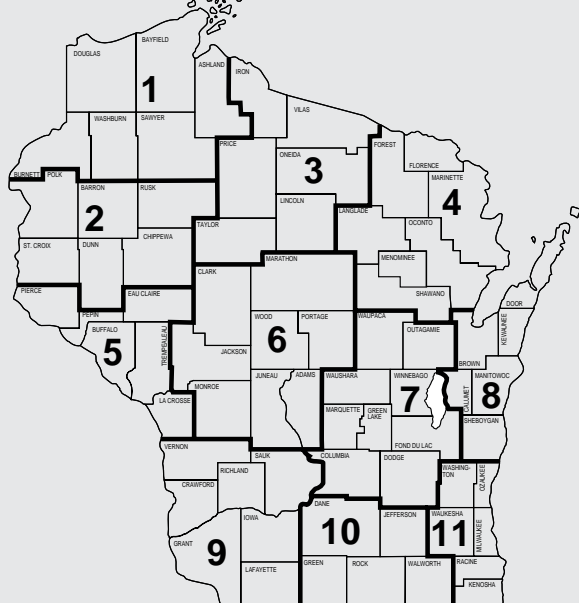
Scott Zimmerman

W9209 Bobolink Rd.

Reeseville, WI 53579

(920) 927-3420

Wisconsin Cooperative Trapper Education Districts



District 8

Chris Bezio

5479 Hawthorn Dr

Pulaski, WI 54162

(920) 822-3427

District 9

Dennis Knuth

217 Clark Street

Reedsburg, WI 53959

(608) 524-2255

District 10

Skip Gregoire

Box 195

Ft. Atkinson, WI 53538

(920)563-9132

District 11

Earl Klippel, Jr.

1928 State Rd 175

Richfield, WI 53076

(262) 388-3328

DNR Service Centers

Contact these DNR Service Centers for **tagging dates**.

Office hours may vary by location.

Contact Service Center for information on office hours.

South Central Region (Fitchburg)	608-275-3266
Madison (Central Office)	608-266-2621
Dodgeville	608-935-3368
Horicon	920-387-7860
Janesville	608-743-4800
Poynette	608-635-8110
Southeast Region (Milwaukee)	414-263-8500
Plymouth	920-892-8756
Sturtevant	262-884-2300
Waukesha	262-574-2100
Northeast Region (Green Bay)	920-662-5100
Oshkosh	920-424-3050
Peshigo	715-582-5000
Sturgeon Bay	920-746-2860
Wautoma	920-787-4686
West Central Region (Eau Claire)	715-839-3700
Baldwin	715-684-2914
Black River Falls	715-284-1400
La Crosse	608-785-9000
Wausau	715-359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids	715-421-7800
Northern Region (Spooner)	715-635-2101
Antigo	715-627-4317
Ashland	715-685-2900
Cumberland	715-822-3590
Hayward	715-634-2688
Ladysmith	715-532-3911
Park Falls	715-762-3204
Rhineland	715-365-8900
Superior	715-392-7988
Woodruff	715-356-5211

General mailing address:

Department of Natural Resources,
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707

Phone: 608-266-2621

dnr.wi.gov